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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/961,013	10/30/1997	JOSHUA L. COLMAN	830/17	6844

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EXAMINER

EVANS, FANNIE L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2001

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/961,013

Applicant(s)

COLMAN ET AL.

Examiner

F. L. Evans

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 51-137 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 51-111, 113 and 119-137 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 112 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 114-118 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 18 September 2001 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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**The Drawings**

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on September 18, 2001 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 112 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Falcoff et al (US 4,551,251), of record.

Falcoff et disclose a tube assembly (inlet and outlet pipes and body 4) for connection to a fluid analyzing instrument comprising a connector (body 4 with inlet 11 and outlet opening 12) having an end face (planar surface with openings 11 and 12), wherein at least a part of the end face is optically reflective. Body 4 can be made of stainless steel which is optically reflective. Applicant's attention is directed to lines 51-54 in column 2 and lines 1-4 in column 3.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 114-118 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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**Allowed Claims**

Claims 51-111, 113 and 119-137 are allowed over the prior art of record.

**Response to Arguments**

Applicant's arguments filed on September 18, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to applicant's remarks in lines 4-20 on page 5 of the response, the tube assembly comprises body 4 and treaded inlet and outlet pipes. See lines 51-54 in column 2. The body 4 is a connector. Body 4 is connectable to cap 3. Body 4 has an end face (planar surface with openings 11 and 12) which is optically reflective. The body can be made of stainless steel. See lines 1-4 in column 3. The tube assembly can be connected to a fluid analyzing instrument (a colorimeter). See lines 66-68 in column 1. Also, "for connection to a fluid analyzing instrument" is merely a statement of intended use which does not add patentable weight to the claimed structure. The claimed structure is disclosed by Falcoff et al.

**Final Rejection**

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however,

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will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

**Fax/Telephone Numbers**

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The fax number is (703) 308-7722.

If applicant wishes to send a fax containing a Proposed Amendment for discussion during either a personal interview or a telephone interview then the fax should:


- 1) Contain either the statement "**DRAFT**" or "**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**" on the Fax Cover Sheet; and
- 2) Should be unsigned by the attorney or agent.

This will ensure that the amendment will not be entered into the application and will be forwarded to the examiner as quickly as possible.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner whose telephone number is (703) 308-4805. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font, can be reached on (703) 308-4881. The TC Receptionist's telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Any inquiry of a technical nature regarding reissues, petitions and terminal disclaimers should be directed to Ed Glick whose telephone number is (703) 308-4858, Hien Phan whose telephone number is (703) 308-7502, or Ed Westin whose telephone number is (703) 308-4823. Any inquiry relating to reexams should be directed to Hien Phan, and any inquiry relating to PCTs should be directed to Ed Westin.

Any other inquiry of a technical nature, and all inquiries of a general nature including those relating to the status of an application should be directed to TC 2800 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

  
**F. L. EVANS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**ART UNIT 2877**

file

December 2, 2001